

In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor

What a day it was! As many of you know, we held our third Citizen Summit on November 15. Thousands of District residents participated in this unique town hall meeting. We first launched the Citizen Summit four years ago, when I was elected Mayor. Over the past four years, our Neighborhood Action initiative has engaged more than 13,000 residents.

More than 2,800 residents of the District of Columbia gathered at the Washington Convention Center to help plan the future of the city. Over the course of the day-long forum, participants in Citizen Summit III discussed their long-term vision for the future of the District and weighed trade-offs among policy options to address critical challenges facing the city.

Of course, I hear from our residents every day in different settings as I crisscross the city discussing issues. But the Citizen Summit is different. It's the one day we can come together as a city to discuss our present and our future. The Citizen Summit helps ensure that we look at our challenges and choices and have a dialogue among the different groups and interests that make up this great city. Citizen Summit III is part of my Neighborhood Action initiative to engage the public in the city's governance.

We also came to the Washington Convention Center on November 15 to set an example—for the country and the world. What we said is that it's possible for people of different races, genders, incomes, and religions to come together for civic dialogue. It's an opportunity for us to really listen to each other, express differences, and learn from each other. In the end, we can reach a consensus about our priorities as a city.

At the summit, I was joined by several members of the DC Council, including Council Chairman Linda Cropp, Councilmembers Harold Brazil, Adrian Fenty and Jim Graham, as well as numerous ANC Commissioners. Along with my Cabinet, I will use the results of Citizen Summit III to develop the Citywide Strategic Plan, which sets out the programs and services that will be put in place by government agencies. Results will shape budget priorities for the 2005 city budget.

Who attended Citizen Summit III? The majority of our participants were female—nearly 70 percent. Age groups most represented were 45-54 and 65 or older. The majority of our attendees were African American – nearly 60 percent. Residents from every ward showed up.

Participants in Citizen Summit III were asked to consider programs and policies that address three of the most important challenges facing the city:

- Providing quality education
- Making neighborhoods safer
- Expanding opportunities for our residents

In small groups, citizens worked with trained facilitators to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the different options that had been presented to them, as well as identify other options. Ideas generated in these discussions were collected through laptop computers at each table. Participants also used polling keypads to prioritize the options and shape how the city uses its resources to address the challenges. We also asked participants to prioritize the options for improving education. The top three priorities were:

- Make schools safer
- Improve the quality of teaching
- Provide "wrap around" social services to students

Complete results from Citizen Summit III will be available in the coming weeks at the Neighborhood Action website: www.neighborhoodaction.dc.gov. In a few months, I'll come back to residents to talk about the results and our next steps. That meeting will take place on January 31 at a Summit Follow-Up. A location has not yet been determined, but the event will be open to the public. I look forward to seeing you there!



AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

DC Service Leaders Luncheon

On November 6, I was pleased to speak with a group of representatives from the private sector about sponsorship opportunities that will boost volunteerism in our city. I wanted to share my enthusiasm for what I hope will be their involvement in the exciting new initiatives of our DC Commission on National and Community Service. The event was a wonderful opportunity to present information on the commission and several new programs that will open the door to civic participation in Washington.

The DC Commission on National and Community Service is one leg in a three-part leadership team for our Unified District Plan for Service. The vision of this plan for DC is to be a community that embraces an ethic of service that empowers residents to work together with unity of purpose. I have charged this commission to find a way to engage more of our residents in the work of addressing the needs of our community through service. I am extremely proud of the DC Commission on National and Community Service and its track record in the three short years it has been operating.

There is a story I like that demonstrates the importance of partnerships and service in our city. Last winter, we had the opportunity to test our new and improved service partnerships when a blizzard struck our area over President's Day weekend. I called on residents to reach out to each other, and our "Citizen Corps" partners coordinated the volunteer response.

We matched our Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Corps volunteers with other community volunteers with SUVs. They helped drive citizens who needed to get through the snow. Similarly, throughout the weekend, volunteers and AmeriCorps members shoveled snow for seniors and people with disabilities and for our schools. Together, they helped them open for business as soon as possible. This was a remarkable community response! At the event, I recognized several individuals present who have helped our city become a better place for volunteers: Maxine Baker, president and CEO, Freddie Mac Foundation; Vince Micone, chair, DC Commission on National and Community Service; and Deborah Gist, director, DC Commission on National and Community Service. Their continued help and partnership is critical to the success of the District of Columbia.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve." Government cannot do it alone, and partnerships are critical to our success. No doubt, it's through multisector meaningful partnerships that we've been able to address our common concerns.

Community Profile

Ja'nea Perry

Ward 5 resident Ja'nea Perry is a dedicated 16-year-old who knows what she wants in life, and is well on her way to accomplishing it. She devotes countless hours of time and energy to her community, while she gains the skills and knowledge she needs to become a successful career-minded adult. "I like to help people," Ja'nea said. "You can do a lot for your community—one person makes a difference."

Ja'nea currently attends MM Washington High School in the District, and is preparing to enter her senior year. She began her volunteer duties as a Safety Patrol in elementary school. She would leave class early each day to assist kindergartners in reaching their destinations.

For the past three years, Ja'nea has been enrolled in the Upward Bound program at George Washington University. There she joins other teens who are encouraged to succeed in future academic endeavors. They are provided insight into careers such as biochemistry, computer technology and pharmacology.

Ja'nea, who won Upward Bound's Achievement in Language Award, is a member of the National Honor Society, and participated in the Mayor's Youth Summit in 2000. She volunteered to serve at the Smithsonian 2002 Silk Road Festival, and also volunteers at the Washington Hospital Center. She is an active member of Zion Hill Baptist Church, where she helps coordinate and organize youth events. On the home front, Ja'nea helps take care of her 2-year-old niece and 4-year-old nephew while her mother works. "I'm proud to teach them positive things," she said.



Ja'nea Perry



MPD Awards Ceremony

On November 6, I was pleased to attend the fourth annual Metropolitan Police Department Awards Ceremony. At the ceremony, we honored officers and citizens who demonstrated courage and bravery over the past year. In all, 200 individuals and organizations were honored at the ceremony, held at DAR Constitution Hall in Northwest. Here are two people we honored:

- **Third District** Detective David Swinson is considered by many to be the best burglary detective not just in DC, but in our region. Over the past year, he has closed more than 100 cases, several involving some of the most notorious serial burglars operating not only in the Third District but in neighborhoods throughout the city. He also closed four large-scale fencing operations, resulting in the recovery of more than \$100,000 worth of stolen property, and he has already identified four more fencing operations that he is working to close down as well. In addition to investigating these crimes, he works closely with the community to help prevent burglaries and to reunite victims with their stolen property.
- While out jogging one evening last July, Katherine Allen of Northwest DC saw two men attack another man near 28th and Q Streets, NW, and then attempt to steal his scooter. But this concerned citizen would have none of that. First, she helped the victim fight off the attackers. Then, she gave chase as the robbers fled. When they got out of her sight, she dialed 911, and then assisted responding officers in canvassing the area and identifying the suspects.

Chief Charles Ramsey and others presented awards in 14 separate categories. They included the Medal of Honor, for exceptional bravery; the Medal of Valor, for heroism; the Blue Badge Medal, for officers seriously injured in the line of duty; the Lifesaving Medal; the Meritorious Service Medal, for outstanding contributions, and the Achievement Medal, for individual acts of skill or bravery.

Fighting crime is a difficult and dangerous job. Seldom do our police officers receive the recognition they deserve. I applaud the exceptional things they do every day.

Historic Preservation Award

On November 7, we launched the Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation—our city's first-ever historic preservation awards event, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the DC Historic Preservation Act. The DC Historic Preservation Office within the Office of Planning sponsored the event in partnership with the DC Preservation League.

The District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office (HPO), created in 1978, identifies, evaluates, protects, and enhances the historic properties and archaeological resources that are important to the District of Columbia and the nation. The DC Historic Preservation Law is one of the most effective historic preservation laws in the nation, and I believe it has helped raise public appreciation of the city's diverse historic and cultural assets. In particular, it's provided recognition for the city behind the monuments, including the landmarks of African-American history along U Street and throughout our tapestry of neighborhoods.

At the event, I recognized award-winner Teresa Brown. Teresa helps ensure that our city receives recognition beyond the great memorials. She carried out this vision by helping establish the City Museum across from the new Washington Convention Center. She also worked with Howard University to preserve some of the historic buildings on its campus such as the home of its founder General Oliver O. Howard. For her work, Teresa certainly deserved special thanks.

In our neighborhoods, organizations like the Capitol Hill Restoration Society and the DC Preservation League have helped educate property owners about historic preservation.

Since 1978 the District has realized almost \$1 billion in historic rehabilitation tax credit projects alone, and that doesn't count the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in other historic district revitalization efforts. Our city leads the nation in average investment per tax credit project, having topped the list last year at \$7.2 million per project and this year reaching \$13 million per rehabilitation.

This year's 2003 Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation recipients included: Old General Post Office/ Hotel Monaco, Oehrlein & Associates Architects, General Services Administration, Kimpton Hotel and Restaurant Group, URS Corporation, Adamstein & Demetriou, and Heritage Consulting Group, among many others.



Prospect of Snow Rallies the Troops

Many of our residents will soon be doing the snow dance. For our schoolchildren, their dance will be a prayer for snow. The rest of us pray for clear skies. Either way, get ready for the white stuff to start falling from the sky—it's only a matter of time.

To help our city workers get ready for the falling flakes, we held our annual Snow Summit on November 8. This year, there was a bit of a twist.

The Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Transportation (DDOT) have been the District's snow clearing team for several years. Last year, after three years of little snow, the team met and passed a major test after one of the District's snowiest winters. The team had to deal with a total of 49 inches for the season, including the record-setting President's Day storm.

The twist is that this year, our Department of Transportation replaces DPW as the lead agency in handling the city's snow efforts. While DDOT takes over the leadership for snow this year, the close cooperation that starts at the top with DDOT Director Dan Tangherlini and DPW Director Leslie Hotelling will continue seamlessly throughout the two agencies.

While our basic snow routes, equipment and personnel remain largely as before, there will be important improvements. These include two new weather stations for a total of six stations to transmit real-time road and weather conditions and 50 closed circuit cameras—all part of DDOT's traffic management system. We expect to have approximately 50 trucks equipped with Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL), which will give real-time location of these vehicles as they plow their routes.

Our employees rose to the challenge of the President's Day storm and all the winter weather with skill, dedication, initiative and perseverance. I know our plows, loaders and salt domes are ready as are our drivers, salt loaders, quality inspectors, parking enforcers and supervisors.

We also have a new snow brochure in English and Spanish. It reminds people to avoid parking on snow emergency routes during snow emergencies, to put shoveled snow between curbs and sidewalks and to please be patient, particularly during and after a major storm.

The brochure will be distributed through the mail in the coming weeks. It will also be posted on the Internet at www.ddot.dc.gov.

Location, Location, Location

Few cities have as many landmarks as Washington, DC. The White House, the US Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial immediately establish the District's identity on screen. Yet there are a growing number of individual homes and businesses in Anacostia, Adams Morgan, Georgetown and Shaw that are fast becoming recognizable locations in television shows like "The West Wing," "K Street," and "The District" and feature films such as "Minority Report," "Legally Blonde 2" and "The Recruit."

You too can have your home or business serve as the backdrop in a commercial, documentary, or feature film. Simply register your property and submit photographs for inclusion in the Celluloid City Directory. The Celluloid City Directory is part of a new location service available to film and television producers that features homes and businesses within the District's eight wards. Producers will soon be able to search for new properties by neighborhood and special features through the directory, database and photo file system.

For additional information, please call (202) 727-6608.



Mayor's Week in Review

Mayor Attends Music Museum Reception

On November 6, I attended and delivered remarks at a reception for the planned National Music Center and Museum. Organizers hope to locate the museum at the site of our old Washington Convention Center.

Mayor Delivers Remarks at Awards Ceremony

On November 7, I delivered remarks at our first ever Mayor's Awards for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

Mayor Attends Farewell Party

On November 7, I gave brief remarks to show support for the outgoing director of our Emergency Management Agency, Peter Laporte. I wished him well in his future endeavors.

Mayor Rallies the Troops at Snow Summit

On November 7, I delivered remarks at our annual Snow Summit—an occasion to rally city workers who will be helping manage our response to the coming winter weather.

Mayor Addresses the Alaska Municipal League

On November 12, I addressed the opening session of the Alaska Municipal League's 53rd Annual Local Government Conference in Nome, Alaska.

Mayor Speaks at Citizen Summit III

On November 15, I attended, spoke at and participated in Citizen Summit III—our third biannual town hall meeting that brings residents together to discuss pressing city issues and the future of the District of Columbia.

District Activities



On November 6, Mayor Williams met with music composer and producer Quincy Jones, and musical artist Nancy Sinatra. The three announced plans for a National Music Center and Museum in Washington, DC.



On November 6, Mayor Williams helped cut the ribbon at the new Tropicana carry-out at 2873 Alabama Avenue, SE.



Citizen Summit III, held Saturday November 15, brought together nearly 3,000 District residents from all eight wards of the city. Participants gathered at 12-person tables to discuss priorities for the District of Columbia. Mayor Williams and Council Chairman Linda Cropp both addressed the crowd to talk about their vision for the city moving forward.



Community News

- [Historic Preservation Turns 25](#)
- [Work to Continue on Tenleytown Firehouse](#)
- [Mayor Provides Statement on the Resignation of DCPS Superintendent Paul E. Vance](#)

[View all News Releases](#)

Upcoming Events

11/22	Dialogue and Recognition of Latino Parents, Youth and Police Officers 9:30 am - 3 pm George Washington University, Marvin Center 800 - 21st Street, NW
11/22	Help the Homeless Walkathon 8:30 am - 4 pm The National Mall Between 7th and 14th Streets, NW www.helpthehomelessdc.org
11/25	Project Harvest 6 am - 6 pm Pennsylvania Avenue, NW between 11th and 12th Streets For more information, call (202) 806-3500
12/3	Earned Income Tax Credit Outreach Kickoff 1 - 3 pm Thurgood Marshall Center (First Floor) 1816 - 12th Street, NW



[View the Mayor's daily schedule](#)